Blinddate

WHEN ASIANA BACHELOR **NIRMAL** TOLD US HE WANTED A DATE WITH A DIFFERENCE, WE SENT HIM ON A COOKERY CLASS WITH **HALINA**

Hard enough of setting a couple of strangers go for a meal at a restaurant? So have we. And it's not just for our blind dates. Dating in general has become much more adventurous, and activity dates are the de rigeur for young couples wanting to get to know each other better – it feels less staged or like an interview when you both have something to do. But that doesn't mean you have to go hungry!

When we discovered our man Nirmal was a dab hand in the kitchen, we decided to let him show off his culinary skills by taking reader Halina Patel for a lunchtime 'Cook, Eat and Rest' cookery class at L'atelier des Chefs. It proved to be one of the more interesting dates we've covered – let's face it, a blind date feature is only really interesting when they hate each other, and that's hard to do when all you're doing is making pleasantries over lunch. Not that we wanted Nirmal or Halina to hate one another, mind, but with the territorial control that goes in the kitchen, and the possibilities of egos being bruised through culinary criticism, would they cook up a storm or get on like a kitchen on fire? Best way to find out was to throw them into the deep end!

Halina : 'First impression? Nirmal made a real effort to dress smartly even though it was a lunch date and I like a man who takes pride in his appearance!'

Halina : 'When I found out we were cooking Thai Chicken Curry, I got very excited as it's my favourite dish! It didn't matter that I'm not much of a chef. Nirmal is and had good kitchen etiquette; he even remembered to put on the apron!'

Halina : 'Our chef showed us the ropes – how to prepare the ingredients. Then it was our turn to take up the challenge. We shared the tasks. Nirmal took on the manly duties like chopping onions so I didn't cry, while I was in charge of the seasoning.'

NIRMAL PARMAR, 24
Trainee Engineer

Star sign: Pisces
Salary: My wallet knows no limits
Best quality: Intelligence and honesty
Vices: Perfecting my hair style
Perfect date: Dining in the restaurant she always wanted to go to but was never taken to
Friends decribe you as... Honest, adventurous, never a dull moment!
Dress sense: Smart/casual
Being single means... Staying out with my mates for as long as I like. Although it's always nice to have someone to come home to!

Nirmal : 'The secret to a good date is making a girl laugh. I'll do whatever it takes, even if it involves vegetables! Luckily Halina saw the funny side to all my antics.'

Nirmal : 'Like my food spicy so I insisted on back-kicking every low minutes. Halina was very subdued and even thought we were going to clean the meat, she made it to my tastes.'

Halina : 'Cooking isn't something I would have picked for a date but it couldn't have been a more perfect choice! There was no pressure about what to order and being a practical task makes you how compatible you are in a quicker way! We managed to avoid any arguments, but I can imagine some couples getting over heated than this pair!'

Nirmal : 'Halina liked to take control, a feature I'm very fond of in a woman!'

Halina : 'It was nice to finally take the aprons, sit back and enjoy each other's company away from the kitchen. Although the cooking part was fun, it felt even more like a date when we were sitting down together with no distractions. We had lots to talk about which made the day go really quickly! It felt like we'd been friends for ages.'

RATINGS	HALINA ON NIRMAL	NIRMAL ON HALINA
Sex appeal	7	7
Fun factor	9	8
Chat flow	7	8
Comfort zone	8	9
Dating score	8	8

Nirmal : 'I felt really proud that we'd made our own meal and it certainly tasted better than my normal cuisine – I'm not sure if that was because of the added woman's touch!'
Halina : 'We both wouldn't wait to tuck in! As well as the curry we made egg fried rice and the combination was amazing. Not only was I on a date, I also learnt some new skills. We decided to play friends so although I haven't found my man I've now got my signature dish!'

"It's not every date you end up learning a few new skills. I'm not sure I found my dream man, but I now have my perfect signature dish"

HALINA ON NIRMAL

'I've never laughed so much on a date! Nirmal was a real gentleman, laidback and easy to talk to. During the class it was more about concentrating than chit-chatting, but after we tucked into our meal and the cameras left, we felt much more relaxed and hung out together for the rest of the afternoon. We had a lot in common but we're at different stages in our lives. I'm keen to settle down soon whereas Nirmal's the partying type and likes hanging out with his mates – it's no surprise he made the Asiana Bachelor list 2010! He's definitely a hottie. I loved his dress sense and company. I'm hoping to stay in touch and maybe even go on another activity outing, not a date, but I'd really enjoy whipping him in a game of badminton.'

NIRPAL ON HALINA

'When I first laid eyes on Halina, she reminded me of my dream girl Deepika Padukone with her pretty dimples and girl next door beauty. I knew we'd click; I just wasn't sure if she'd be a match for me in the kitchen! Luckily Halina had a great sense of humour and didn't mind my playful mood, in fact she laughed at all my jokes which is a great sign! Halina was the ideal date, fun to be around and very interested in me, something you don't get from a lot of girls; most of them like talking about themselves! She's career minded and has a lot of drive and ambition, something I really admire. I'm still studying so don't have time for a relationship but if she's still available in a few years I'd happily date her again!'

HALINA PATEL, 24
Business Anaylst

Star sign: Virgo
Salary: Enough
Best quality: Honesty
Vices: I sleep a lot
Perfect date: Ice skating
Dream holiday: The penthouse suite at Burj Al Arab in Dubai, thank you very much
Dress sense: Smart and sophisticated
Favourite romantic film: The Notebook
Being single means... Independence, but then the perfect man will like that about me

Fancy a date?

Stay cool in the sunshine with our summer hottie **Arvinder Singh**

If you'd like to win a date with Arvinder, send your contact details, a photograph of yourself and answers to the same questions in Blind Date, Asiana, 49-55 East Smithfield, London E1W 1AB. You can also mail us: blinddate@asianamag.com or visit our website: www.asiana.tv. Arvinder will receive all applications for selection.